



Director of
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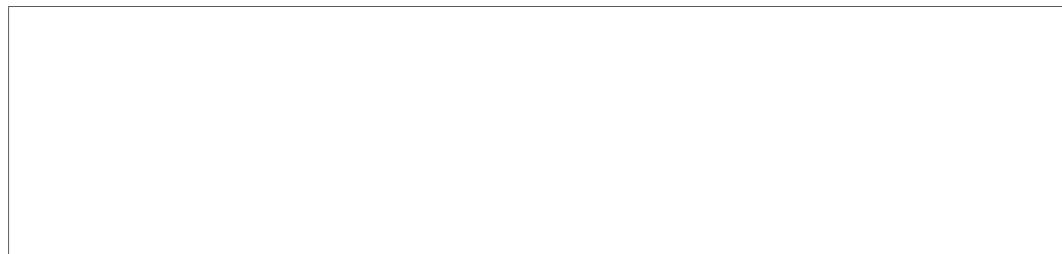


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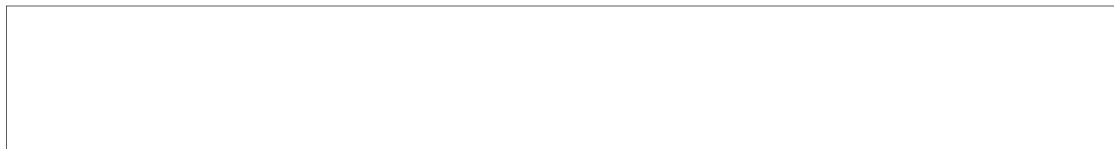
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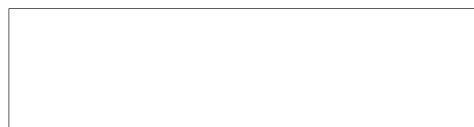
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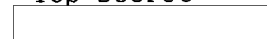


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EL SALVADOR: Increasing Pressure on Garcia

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Opposition to Defense Minister Garcia within the military is growing as a result of rightist Army field commander Ochoa's refusal to accept political exile.

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Comment: The damage to military unity already appears substantial and will increase the longer the dispute continues. The crisis could hasten guerrilla plans for an offensive later this month. A Western news agency reports the guerrillas attacked the capital of Chalatenango Department yesterday.

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The quick development of sympathy and support for Ochoa underscores the depth of disgruntlement over Garcia's leadership and his widely criticized handling of the counterinsurgency. The opposition to the Defense Minister within the military is strengthening D'Aubuisson--his major political adversary--who probably will increase his efforts to oust Garcia.

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EC-US: Talks on Agricultural Trade

EC and US officials meet tomorrow to begin a three-month review of agricultural trade issues, but the Community probably will not make substantial changes or concessions in its agricultural policy.

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The three-day talks are the first in a series agreed to last month aimed at identifying specific EC agricultural exports that are competing with US farm products and proposing ways to limit this competition.

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EC-US differences over agricultural trade came to a head at the GATT ministerial meeting in November. At that time, the Community--led by France--rejected any commitment to freeze or limit agricultural export subsidies. Since that time the Commission has recommended an average 4.4-percent increase in Community farm prices for the 1983/84 crop year.

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Comment: The meeting may help to reduce tensions by compiling an agreed product-by-product list of agricultural trade problems and possible short-term solutions. EC officials may argue that the proposed small increase in farm prices is an effort to curb the EC's growing agricultural surplus--the main cause of increasing exports by the Community. They may even be willing to reduce subsidies and increase stocks--reducing available exports--if doing so can be presented as being for internal market or budgetary reasons and not because of outside pressure.

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Nevertheless, fundamental EC-US tensions over agriculture probably will remain until the Community agrees to curb overproduction and export subsidies directly.

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France traditionally has been the most vocal advocate of an aggressive EC export policy for agricultural products. Moreover, French policy may harden because French farmers, who want even higher price increases, have threatened to take to the streets this spring to protest EC plans to limit production. Other EC members, however, are concerned that French policy is becoming too rigid, and they may begin actively to seek ways to limit surpluses.

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INTERNATIONAL: Nonaligned Set To Criticize US

Cuba and Nicaragua intend to use the Nonaligned ministerial conference in Managua this week to condemn US policy in Central America. [redacted]

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The conference's draft communique, authored by Nicaragua and Nonaligned chairman Cuba, accuses the US of conspiring with Honduras to destabilize Nicaragua. It states US policy is threatening to cause war to spread throughout Central America. [redacted]

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The Sandinistas want to strengthen Nonaligned political and diplomatic support for their regime. The Non-aligned group commands a clear majority in the UN General Assembly, and Nicaragua hopes the ministerial conference will lay the groundwork for favorable UN action on Central American issues, especially on the Nicaraguans' dispute with Honduras. Cuba wants to put on record a condemnation of US Central American policy that will be difficult to overturn when it relinquishes the chairmanship at the Nonaligned summit this March in New Delhi. [redacted]

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Nonaligned moderates, led by Egypt, India, and Yugoslavia, oppose the draft communique. They see it as representing Cuban and Nicaraguan policy toward the US rather than a Nonaligned consensus. The moderates do not want Cuba and Nicaragua to use the Nonaligned Movement as a vehicle to criticize the US, and they intend to demand major changes in the draft. [redacted]

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Comment: The moderates probably will be able to soften the communique, but some harsh criticism of the US is likely to remain. Nonaligned procedure gives Cuba and Nicaragua, as chairman and conference host, considerable discretion in determining the results of the meeting. Moreover, the movement accords each regional group wide latitude in defining Nonaligned policy on regional issues, and Latin American moderates do not seem prepared to challenge Cuba's leadership of the Latin group. [redacted]

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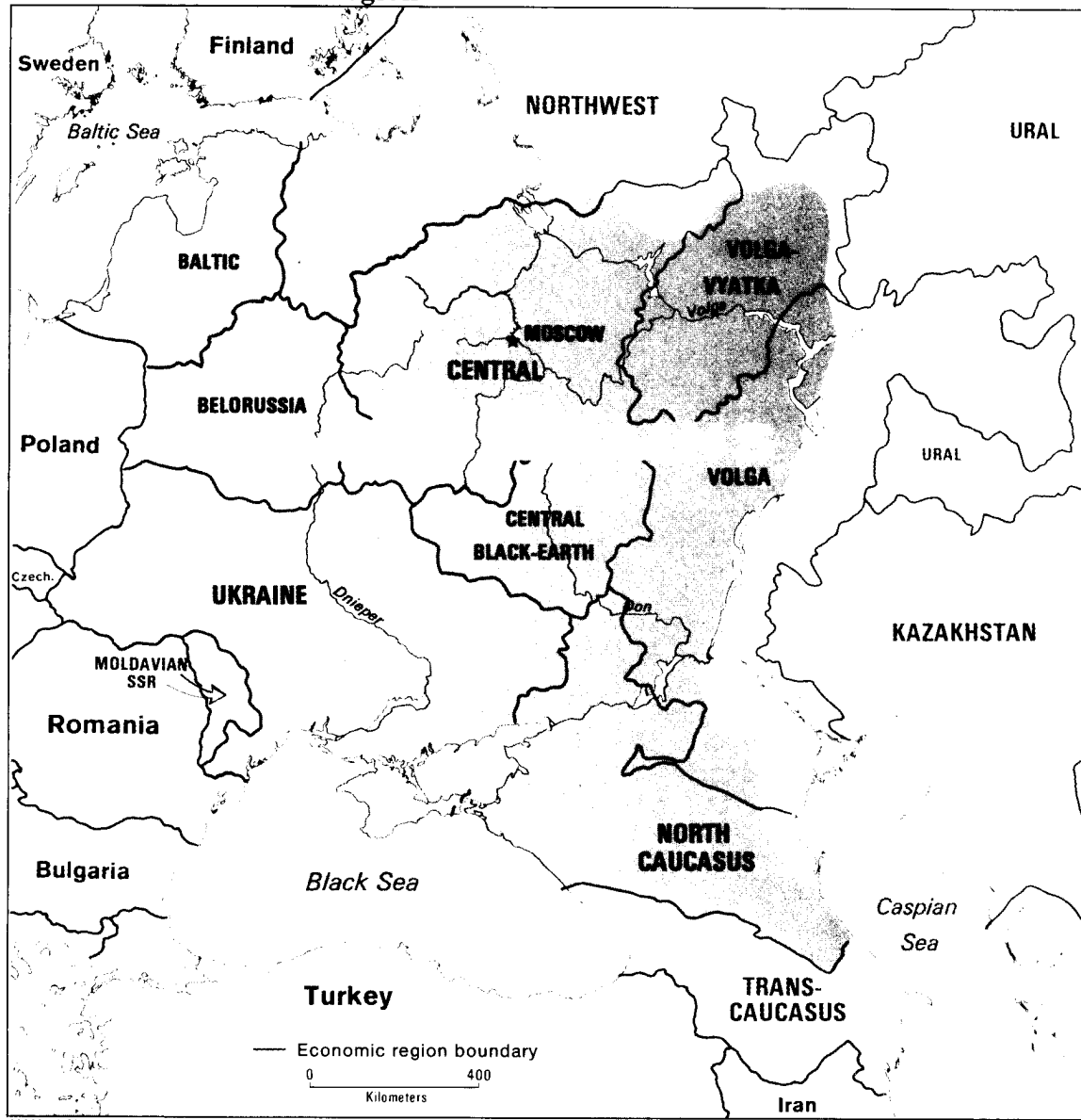
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Soviet Winter Grains Region



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USSR: Winter Grain Prospects

A severe freeze has further reduced prospects for the winter grain crop. Areas hardest hit were in the southern Ukraine, southern Central Region, eastern Belorussia, and parts of the North Caucasus.

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Comment: Spotty germination last fall and the cold temperatures with a lack of snow cover almost certainly will result in winterkill losses greater than the normal 15 to 20 percent.

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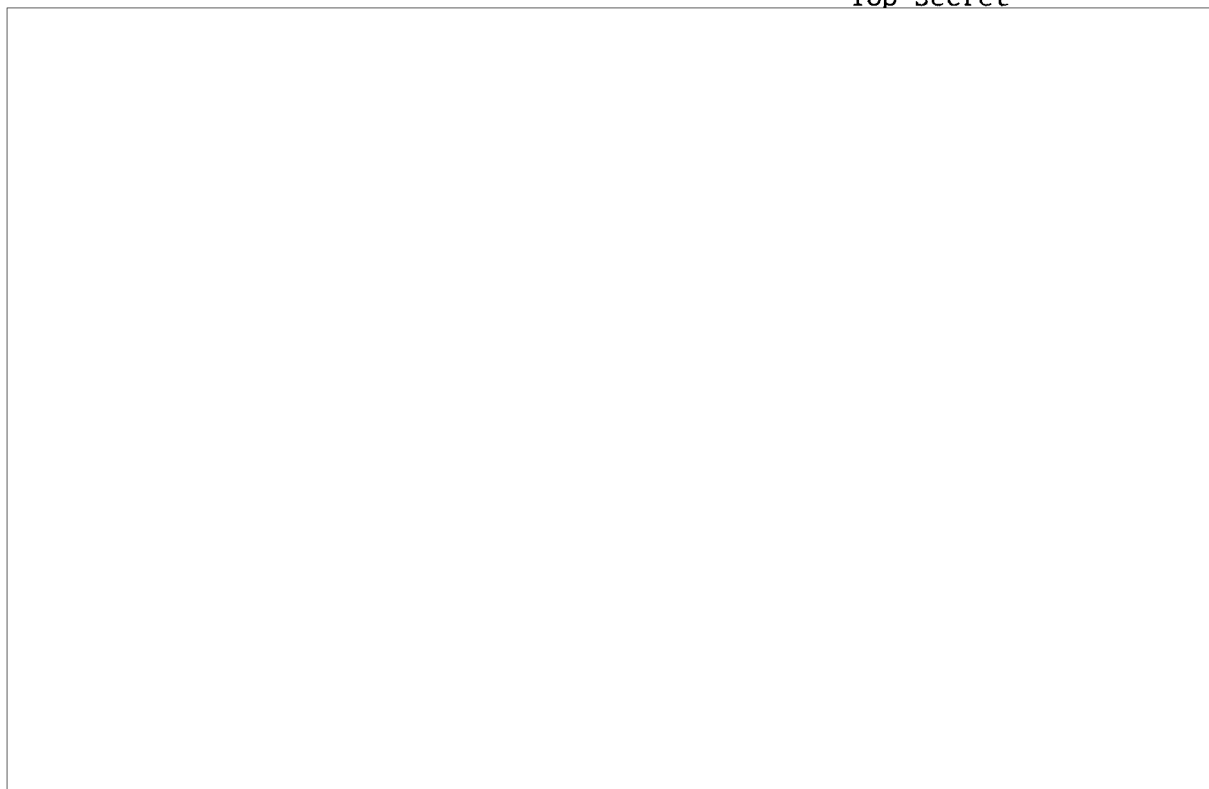
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FRANCE-SINGAPORE: Airbus Offer

The West European consortium Airbus Industrie has offered Singapore Airlines 10 airliners on highly favorable terms. Six of the aircraft would replace Airbuses already on order, but four would be competitive with a possible purchase from the US.

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Comment: This is the latest example of continued aggressiveness by the French-led consortium in the world airliner market, with South and Southeast Asia receiving high priority because of the rapid air traffic growth expected there. The A310 aircraft built by the consortium has been the center of sales battles with US aircraft producers in several nations, including Pakistan and Thailand. A sale of the A310 to the Singapore state airline would improve chances for additional successes in the region. Airbus probably is offering its package to Singapore at terms 2 or 3 percent below the market rate.

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